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# Anabasis

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JEFFERY BAHR

*Anabasis*

I have straightened the watercolor  
of the boys in white blouses, backs against  
the small gray boat. I have baked

bread, and left it unbroken. Sweated  
into a sleeveless shirt,  
washed it and watched water funnel

all that salt somewhere. How strange this desire  
to brush dust off the trifle bowl. Now, there's less  
of it in more places. Every morning

I'm sure they're pulling the boat onto the sand.  
In the evening they're struggling to reach the sea.